



CATEX CHECKLIST

CHECKLIST OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES & SENSITIVE RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) DETERMINATION FOR A DENALI COMMISSION PROJECT

Program Partner Name Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	Project Name Kotlik Relocation Design	
Location Kotlik, Alaska	Project # FAA 01565-00	Subproject # AN 19-JF9
Identify Categorical Exclusion The proposed project scope is identified in the Denali Commission list of categorical exclusions in 45 CFR Appendix A to Part 900, paragraph(s) B2 for engineering studies and investigations that do not permanently change the environment.		
Project Description (2-3 sentences maximum) This project will design a new subdivision for relocation of erosion threatened homes in Kotlik, Alaska. The project will generate bid-ready civil site work construction documents and a residential structure relocation plan. A geotechnical investigation will be performed as part of this project.		
Instructions The information you provide below will assist the Denali Commission in making its determination as to whether a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) is appropriate or further environmental analysis is required for the proposed project. Please place a checkmark in the blank next to the numbered items indicating your response on that issue. A checkmark in the "Yes" block does not automatically preclude the development of the proposed project. It simply means further assessment is needed. Should you have any remarks that may indicate the need to prepare an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), attach a brief explanation of the circumstances for further evaluation. Adverse effects to environmentally sensitive resources must be resolved through another environmental process, e.g., coordination or consultation under the Coastal Zone Management Act or National Historic Preservation Act, before being categorically excluded. Attachments are allowed and encouraged.		

Extraordinary Circumstances	Determination		Basis for determination
	Yes	No	
1. Public Health, Safety or Environment Will the proposed project have a reasonably likelihood of significant impacts on public health, public safety, or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is limited to engineering study and design. There will be no impacts to public health, public safety or the environment.
2. Controversy on Environmental Grounds Will the proposed project have effects on the environment that are likely to be highly controversial or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is limited to engineering study and design. The project supports actions to benefit the community as a whole. No environmental impacts will occur. There is no known controversy associated with this project.
3. Uncertain, Unique or Unknown Risks Will the proposed project have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain, involve unique or unknown risks, or are scientifically controversial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is limited to engineering study and design. No environmental impacts will occur.

4. Precedent for Future Action Will the proposed action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is typical in scope to other rural Alaska village relocation planning projects. The project is limited to engineering study and design. This project does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions.
5. Cumulative Impacts Will the proposed project relate to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is limited to engineering study and design. No environmental impacts will occur.
6. Scope and Size Will the proposed project have a greater size and scope than is normal for the category of action?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is typical in scope to other rural Alaska village relocation planning projects.
7. Environmental Conditions Will the proposed project have the potential to degrade already existing poor environmental conditions or to initiate a degrading influence, activity or effect in areas not already significantly modified from their natural condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project supports future actions to benefit the community and environment by planning to relocate threatened homes.
8. Environmental Justice Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations? Ref: Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This project will benefit the health and environment of the residents and the community as a whole. The project does not have a disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental impact on Tribes, low-income populations or minority populations.
9. Indian Sacred Sites Will the proposed project limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites? (EO 13007) <i>"Indian tribe" means an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to Public Law No. 103-454, 108 Stat. 4791, and "Indian" refers to a member of such an Indian tribe. (EO 13007)</i> Ref: Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No. A consultation with the Kotlik tribe will be carried out in conjunction with the SHPO consultation described under no. 10, following.
Sensitive Resources	Impact Potential		Basis for determination
	Yes	No	

<p>10. Section 106 Historic Properties</p> <p>Will the proposed project adversely affect properties in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places?</p> <p>Ref: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), as amended. (See 36 CFR 800, Protection of Historic Properties).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The project APE is located in the vicinity of SMI-00003, a late prehistoric/early historic village. An early historic Russian occupation also occurred at the location (ref. SMI-00056). Remains of each of these occupations would be eligible for the NRHP. A qualified historic preservation professional will review the effects of the project on NRHP eligible resources and historic properties and make a determination based on the review. The agency will establish a finding based on the determination and provide SHPO with a review period of 30 days prior to initiating project geotesting activities.</p>
<p>11. Endangered Species</p> <p>Will the proposed project adversely affect species listed, or proposed to be listed on the Endangered or Threatened Species List, or the specific critical habitat?</p> <p>Ref: Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended. (See 50 CFR part 402).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>No. According to USFWS, there are polar bear listed as threatened under ESA potentially present in the project area. There is no designated critical habitat within the project area (USFWS 2019). The project occurs within the boundary of the village. Therefore, the project will have No Effect on ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat (USFWS 2018).</p> <p>USFWS 2019. USFWS. Information for Planning and Consultation. Community Name. Consultation Code: 07CAAN00-2019-SLI-0077 Event Code: 07CAAN00-2019-E-00204. Available at: https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/. Accessed: August 1, 2019.</p> <p>USFWS 2018. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation for Native Alaska Village Upgrades (Programmatic). Consultation 07CAAN00-2018-I-0145. August 7, 2018.</p>
<p>12. Historic or Cultural Resources</p> <p>Will the proposed action adversely impact the historic and cultural environment of the Nation?</p> <p>Ref: Executive Order 11593, Protection and enhancement of the cultural environment.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>No. See no. 10, preceding.</p>
<p>13. Park, Recreation or Refuge Lands</p> <p>Will the proposed project have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on National or State Park, Recreation or Refuge lands?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Kotlik is located within the boundary of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Legislation recognizes the Native communities within the Refuge are consistent with the Refuge designation. The project is limited to engineering study and design.</p>
<p>14. Wilderness Areas</p> <p>Will the proposed project adversely impact a wilderness area?</p> <p>Ref: Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), as amended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>This community is not located in a wilderness area. The nearest designated wilderness area is the Andreafsky Wilderness located approximately 22 miles east of the village.</p> <p>State of Alaska, Alaska Mapper. Available at http://dnr.alaska.gov/mapper</p>

<p>15. Wild and Scenic Rivers</p> <p>Is the proposed project a "Water Resources Project" that will impact a wild, scenic or recreational river area and create conditions inconsistent with the character of the river?</p> <p>Ref: Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.), as amended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Kotlik and Yukon rivers are not designated as Wild and Scenic. This project will not affect Wild and Scenic or recreational rivers.</p> <p>National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Available at: https://rivers.gov/alaska.php</p>
<p>16. National Natural Landmarks</p> <p>Will the proposed project impact a National Natural Landmark?</p> <p>Ref: Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), as amended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Kotlik is not located near a National Natural Landmark.</p> <p>State of Alaska, Alaska Mapper. Available at http://dnr.alaska.gov/mapper</p>
<p>17. Sole Source Aquifers</p> <p>If the proposed action would not have adverse effects on this resource, it may be considered that there is no Impact Potential.</p> <p>Ref: Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, (42 U.S.C. 201, 300 et seq., and 21 U.S.C. 349), as amended. (See 40 CFR part 149).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>There are no EPA-designated sole source aquifers in Alaska</p> <p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Sole Source Aquifers. Available at: https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/</p>
<p>18. Prime Farmlands</p> <p>Will the proposed project convert significant agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses?</p> <p>Ref: Farmlands Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), as amended. (See 7 CFR part 658).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>There are no designated Soils of National or State Importance in Alaska. This project will not convert agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses.</p> <p>U.S. Department of Agriculture. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Available at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ak/soils</p>
<p>19. Wetlands</p> <p>Will the proposed project adversely affect wetlands or will there be construction in wetlands, except in conformance with a U.S. Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit?</p> <p>Ref: Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The USFWS has not mapped wetlands in the project area. A review of aerial imagery shows there is potential for wetlands in the project area. The project will complete geotechnical investigations. If wetlands will be impacted then a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is required. Geotechnical investigations are authorized under USACE Nationwide Permit 6 for survey activities. Pre-construction notification (PCN) to USACE is not required.</p> <p>USFWS. National Wetland Inventory Surface Waters and Wetlands. Available at: www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html</p>
<p>20. Floodplains</p> <p>Will the proposed project involve construction in a floodplain or impact floodplain development?</p> <p>Ref: Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The project is located within the 100 year floodplain of the Kotlik River. The project is limited to engineering study and design. The project supports future actions to relocate threatened homes away from the river bank. The project does not support development in a floodplain because the homes are existing.</p>

21. National Monuments Will proposed project impact a National Monument?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kotlik is not located near a National Natural Landmark. State of Alaska, Alaska Mapper. Available at http://dnr.alaska.gov/mapper Kotlik is not located near a National Historic Landmark.
22. Ecologically Significant or Critical Areas Will the proposed project impact an ecologically significant or critical area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project scope is limited to engineering study and design within and/or near the developed area of the community. There will be no impacts to ecologically significant or critical areas.
23. Other Known Reasons Is an environmental assessment required for other known reasons?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An Environmental Assessment is not required for the engineering study and design.
Additional Comments In 2018, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium identified 21 high-risk homes because they are within 10 feet of the riverbank. Of these 21 homes, four are imminently threatened. The 2018 ANTHC report provides the following recommendations to address priorities identified by the community: 1) relocate 47 homes to the Old Airport site; 2) build an erosion mitigation structure to protect the landfill; and 3 identify a long-term relocation site. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium 2018. <i>Options for Near-Term Infrastructure Protection Kotlik, Alaska.</i> https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/4/pub/RiskMap/2018 ANTHC Options for Near Term Infrastructure Protection-Kotlik AK.pdf Future actions associated with relocating homes in the floodplain will require further environmental review.			

PREPARED BYDate
8/1/2019Scott Prevatte, Permitting Consultant
Roger Harritt, Cultural Resources Manager

Signature

Scott Prevatte 8/12/19
Roger Harritt 8/12/2019

Organization: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

DENALI COMMISSION APPROVING OFFICIAL

Based upon the categorical exclusion identified above, this completed checklist and attachments, I certify to the best of my knowledge, that the information provided above is complete and correct, and that:

A categorical exclusion determination is appropriate for this project

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Further environmental analysis is required

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

Date

9/16/2019

Signature

Ophele Whittington